Transporter

For the employees and retirees of
the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Briefs

Rte. 35 groundbreaking

Commissioner Frank J. Wilson and Wall Township Mayor Gerald C. Nelson in September broke ground on a $2.5 million project to widen Route 35 through the community.

A 3.5-mile section of Route 35, between Lakewood Road and Seventeenth Avenue, is being upgraded to provide wider travel lanes. A center lane also is being added along a portion of the highway to relieve congestion and improve safety.

"For too long, Route 35 has been a clogged artery through the heart of Wall Township's business district. Today, we're performing the highway equivalent of angioplasty," Wilson said.

World Cup cooperation

John Gahwyler of Traffic Operations North and **Dave Lortz** of Region 2 Maintenance received awards of appreciation from the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association for their excellent working relationship during World Cup '94.

The World Cup cooperation has lead to cooperative planning for inclement weather. A procedures seminar cosponsored by both agencies took place October 7.

Work zone patrols

The State Police have begun patrolling highway construction work zones under an innovative joint venture with the NJDOT and the Federal Highway Administration to improve safety for construction crews and motorists.

"Motorists rightfully expect us to keep New Jersey's highways in good condition,'' said Commissioner Frank J. Wilson. "But they also have the obligation to take extra care and vigilance while traveling within inches of our workers. The presence of State Troopers in our work zones will reinforce the safety message.''

The State Police is deploying 24 troopers at construction sites around the state on a fulltime basis. The detachment resulted from a five-year agreement between the Department and the State Police which will be funded by the FHWA for $1.4 million.

The info superhighway is here

You are working at your computer when suddenly, you hear a chime, the first four notes of a song you can't quite identify.

No, you're not hallucinating, it's E-Mail, an electronic message from your boss who no longer has to shout over the partition.

The electronic mail feature is part of the Department's long-awaited computer network. Ewing headquarters and the regional offices have begun to board the Novell Network, an electronic superhighway called DOTNET.

"Our goal is to build an electronic infrastructure for the entire department," said Steve Hanson, Director of Budget and Management Support.

Deb Snyder of Management Information Systems (MIS) is supervising the networking project. "The Commissioner's Office, Communications, Highway Access Permits, Budget and Management Support and Traffic Operations South are on line already," she said. "We hope to have all of Finance and Administration connected by the end of October. "Our goal is to have the entire Department on the network by February."

"There are approximately 1,200 PCs in the Department," Hanson said. "We plan to link the newer 386 and 486 machines, about 800, to the network. Unfortunately, 400 older PCs which can't run Windows software can't be linked. Those will be replaced as the budget allows."

DOTNET allows a free-flow of messages, documents and graphics between users on the network. Access to modem and fax pools, central storage to save hard drive space and network-based software is also planned. The network also provides direct access to the mainframe computer.

The region headquarters will be linked to the Ewing main office by dedicated phone lines in a "seamless" transfer of information. Satellite offices will have to dial up by modem to transfer data. Memos that took a day or more through interoffice mail now will arrive seconds after being sent.

MIS is testing new software that may someday be accessible on the network. Employees interested in testing programs should contact Mary Lou Fels in MIS at (609) 530-6123.

Deb Snyder, George Webb (kneeling) and Alan Jacobowicz prepare the Novell file servers for distribution around the Department.

Managers participate in "Workplace of Difference" seminars.

Seminar examines differences

Responsibility, openness and sensitivity are among the topics that are being discussed during "A Workplace of Difference," a seminar for managers being conducted this fall in Ewing and the region headquarters.

Presented by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the sessions are designed to examine stereotypes and assumptions and explore perceptions of cultural differences and attitudes.

"They make you more aware of the other person...their heritage, their traditions and their beliefs." said NJDOT Affirmative Action Officer Sharon Waters who coordinated the event.

In one activity, the group formed a line in order of years of service. Don Chiocchio, Director of Central Services, a 38 NJDOT year veteran, was at the beginning of the line and a four-day employee was at the end.

"This exercise showed us graphically that the first woman was half way down the line and other minorities further along in this group's particular time span," Chiacchio said.

"Reaction to the seminar has been very positive," said Gail Charles Director of Civil Rights and Affirmative Action., "We have been asked to arrange similar sessions for staff in the regions."

Multicultural group plans events

The NJDOT's Multicultural Committee has announced plans for a December 14 holiday party for underprivileged pre-school children from Trenton's Martin House and an international festival next year. Employees wishing to assist with either event should contact a committee member (standing) Shobhana Dandekar, Claudette Bailey, Prim Cruz, Alan Cooper, John Dourgarian, Kaushik Desai and Seth Ahiekpor. (Seated) Sharon Waters, Affirmative Action Officer, Ed Kaus, Chairman, Barbara Haynes and Vicki Tilghman-Ansley. Missing from photo were Anna Diaz, Wagdi Gobrial. For more information contact Kaus at (609) 530-2968 or Waters at (609) 530-2937.

Design units dedicate library

Employees and retirees gathered recently for the dedication of the new Simeon Chanley Bridge Library on the fifth floor of the E&O building in Ewing. Elaine Chanley, widow of the late structural engineer, donated over 400 of her husband's technical books to the Bridge Division where he served during his 23-year career.

In thanking Mrs. Chanley Assistant Commissioner Ken Afferton noted that her husband was remembered for his dedication to educating new engineers in the technical aspects of structural design.

The library, open to employees, also received donations from retired Director of Design Cliff Ellis and employees Sung H. Park, Gerry Selner, James Lane and Feraidoon Kashani.

Sung H. Park and Robert Pege welcome Elaine Chanley to the dedication.

Park coordinated the construction of the library assisted by Wahab Roomi, Robert Kou, Russel Dudas, Carol Tonic, Karen Fortune, Feraidoon Kashani and Lisa Mallard and Sharon Loftin. Additional support was provided by Joe Accera, Peter Yull, Howard Buckaley, Rich Ding, David Consolly, Dominick Petito, Bob Smith, Paul Grochala and Bob Suess.

Transporter

Governor Christine T. Whitman
Commissioner Frank J. Wilson
Director Alyn Ackermann

The *Transporter* is published for the employees and retirees of the New Jersey Department of Transportation. It is written and designed by the Communications Office, Main Office Building, Trenton, NJ 08625, (609) 530-2121. The *Transporter* is printed by the Department's Print Shop.

Camille Sinclair, Managing Editor; **Gerald Guarnieri**, Page Editor; **Frank Bridgewater**, Graphic Artist; **John Dourgarian, Bob McHugh** and **Jeff Lamm**, Contributors; **Kathleen Callahan and Judi Tessein**, Support Staff.

People BRIEFS

Wed

Jeffrey Spicka, Senior Engineer, Bureau of Local Aid, Netcong, married Tricia Pongracz on June 18.

Engaged

Brenda D. Gonzales, Principal Typist, ROW, has announced her engagement to Cleveland Johnson, III. An August 1995 wedding is planned.

Born

Sue Hornyak, Governmental Relations Specialist, and her husband, Edward, welcomed a son, Edward Anthony Jr., on June 20.

Robert Holland, Sr. Engineer, Region IV Construction, and his wife, Dianne, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Sarah Marie, born July 24.

Bob Signora, Sr. Engineer, Transportation Data Development, and his wife, Maria, welcomed a son, Nicholas, on August 1.

Karen Rose, Region I Construction, and her husband, Hugh, celebrated the arrival of their first child, Amber Lynn, on August 7.

David Barbalace, Sr. Engineer, Region 4 Construction, and his wife, Kathy, are the proud parents of twins, Michael and Eric, born on August 8.

Wayne Bernard, Senior Engineer, Region IV Construction, and his wife Ellen, welcomed a son, Timothy Edward, on August 29.

Christopher Healy, Micro-Electronic Systems Technician from Region IV Electrical, Cherry Hill and his wife, Barbara, announced the arrival of a son, Cameron Christopher, born September 9.

Correction

Last month's issue carried an incorrect first name for the Department's new urban rail advisor. He is **James C. Greller** and he can be reached at 609-530-4080.

Omission

A paragraph that carried Assistant Commissioner **Brian P. Scantlebury's** municipal experience in Montclair was inadvertantly dropped from the last issue. Scantlebury was a Councilman-at-large and a member of the Planning Board in that community. During this time he also chaired the Community Development Block Grant, Personnel, Montclair Connection and Senior Housing subcommitteees.

'Demos' down M.E.T.S. for title

The Bureau of Structural Evaluations' softball team, Demolition, won the 1994 NJDOT Softball League title by defeating the M.E.T.S. — a team drawn from Maintenance, Electrical, Traffic and Safety — by a score of 11-9. The new champions are (front row) Mike Carr, Brian Smith, King Lee, Keith Hill and Tony Capiro; (standing) Doutsen Hettema, Art Cook, Mike Colville, Dave Smith, Brian Strizki and Ramesh Patel. Rich Gramlich, Angelo Longo, Bob Flanegan, Nanci McCarthy and Bruce Riegel are missing from the photo.

Obituaries

Franklin E. Gephart, 82, a 49-year NJDOT veteran died on July 28. He began as an "office boy" and retired in 1978 as Supervisor of Office Services. He is survived by his four children, including Linda, Printing Machine Operator IV, in the Print Shop and Dean, Auto Mechanic in Fernwood.

Robert Thompson, 63, died on August 7. The 20-year NJDOT veteran retired in 1993 as a welder. He is survived by his wife, Jean, two stepchildren and a sister .

Ervin Jones III, 56, Electrical Supervisor Region 1, died August 4. He joined NJDOT in 1966 as an electrical mechanic trainee. He is survived by his wife, Janet, two sons, Ervin IV and Craig and a daughter, Kimberly.

Robert C. Gregal, 57, died on August 7. He retired as an assistant crew supervisor on August 1 after 20 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Janice, a son, Robert and a daughter, Kimberly.

Jean S. Burd, 65, died on September 20. She retired as a Secretarial Assistant in 1991 after 34 years with the Right of Way Division. She is survived by her husband, Joseph, two sons, a daughter-in-law and four grandchildren.

Frank Pallante, 82, died on September 12. He retired as a Maintenance Worker I in 1979, after 26 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Jennie, three sisters and seven brothers.

Werner R. Sonntag, 87, died on August 29. He retired as a Highway Engineer in Planning after 37 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Nellie King and one sister.

Paul E. Piot Jr., 53, died on August 20. He retired as an engineer in 1993 after 26 years of service. He is survived by his parents and his long-time friend, Philip S. Taweel.

Changed your address?

If your address has changed recently it is important to notify your personnel coordinator. If your check has the wrong address, your W2 Form will also be incorrect.

Address changes made after mid-December will not be reflected on the W2 form issued next January.

Retirees who move are reminded to notify the *Transporter* if they wish to continue receiving future issues. The Division of Pensions will not notify NJDOT when retirees change their addresses.

Employees survey seeks input for long range plan

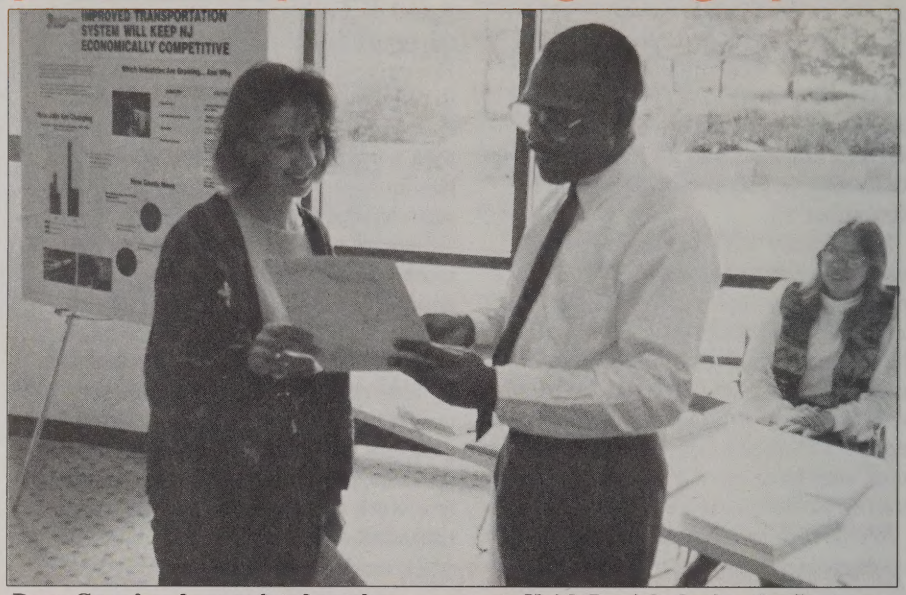
The NJDOT is looking inward as it looks ahead.

One of the Department's long-range planning efforts, the first of several employee "in-reaches," was held at NJDOT Headquarters on September 27 and drew 200 employees. They viewed informational exhibits and responded to questions about future transportation priorities.

"One of the surprises was that most NJDOT employees placed an equal emphasis on both highway and public transit improvements," Daniels noted.

The sessions will be repeated in each of the four regions within the next few weeks and again in headquarters in late November. NJ Transit also is conducting employee forums. In addition, a multidisciplinary issue group of NJDOT employees also will be convened to review and discuss issues.

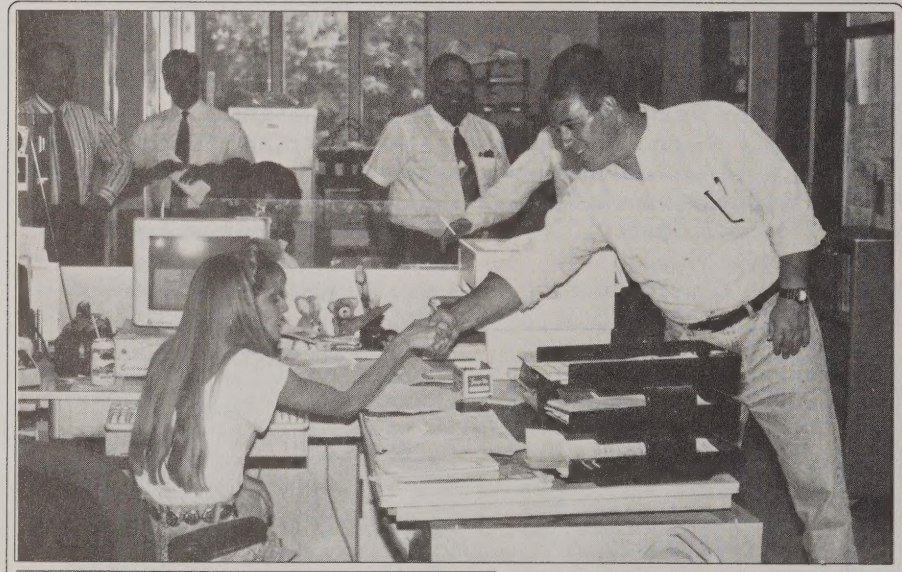
"The main objective is to make our employees aware of the plan and to ensure they are directly involved in determining transportation priorities," said Keith Daniels, coordinator of in-reach activities. "Employees are our customers too."



Dana Gray hands completed employee survey to Keith Daniels during the first "in-reach" session at headquarters.

In addition to employees, NJDOT also is holding "outreach" forums to gather input from the public.

Dubbed Transportation Choices 2020, the long-range transportation plan is being developed to help determine funding priorities over the next 25 years.



Commissioner tours Region 4

Commissioner Frank J. Wilson recently toured offices and shops in Region 4 and greeted employees including (above) Jeannine Loughery, Cherry Hill Maintenance and (below) Cliff Heckman, Materials Testing Lab who demonstrated a concrete test sample.

Recent retirees

The following employees have retired recently: **Joseph Schumacher**, Director, Regional Design, 40 years; **Peter W. Shelton**, Supervising Engineer, C & M, 33 years; **Thomas W. Norris**, Project Engineer, Const., 32 years; **Leon Surgent**, Principal Engineer, 30 years; **John T. Dempster**, Project Engineer Utilities, 27 years; **Robert Gregal**, Asst. Crew Supervisor, Region 4, 27 years.

Rose Farese, Secretarial Assistant 3, 26 years; **Richard Hugle**, Truck Driver, 25 years; **Ronald Kunz**, Principal Engineer, 22 years; **Paul Wilkins**, Carpenter, 20 years; **Frank Berardo**, Sr. ROW Negotiator, 13 years; **Michael Kennedy**, Bridge Operator, 10 years; **Harold L. Green**, Bridge Operator, 9 years **Ronald Baron**, Maintenance Worker I, 8 years.

'Walk' for diabetes

"Walk for the Cure," a fund-raiser to combat juvenile diabetes, is being planned at Six Flags Great Adventure Amusement Park in Jackson on Saturday, November 5. Those interested in participating in the "Walk" may obtain details by contacting Alan Kasper, Press Broadcasting Company at 1-800-876-9599.

Department gets employer trip reduction goals

by Tim Mc Gough
Employee Transportation Coordinator

Like thousands of other New Jersey employers of more than 100 people, NJDOT must submit an Employer Trip Reduction (ETR) compliance plan by November 15.

New Jersey's ETR program is the result of a federal mandate which requires states that experience unacceptable air pollution levels to reduce the amount of vehicles traveling to work between 6 and 10 a.m. The task which confronts the Department will require a change in lifestyle for many of us who have grown accustomed to driving to work alone every day.

We have four affected sites: our headquarters in Ewing and Regions 2, 3, and 4. For example, to comply with the regulations, the 1,900-employee Headquarters Complex in Ewing needs to reduce 277 vehicle trips arriving every morning — almost 1,400 vehicle trips a week! Each of the regional headquarters need to reduce about 25 vehicle trips a day.

I am on a mobility assignment to work with management to identify appropriate Employee Commute Options which will allow the Department to reach compliance. Some options under study are shuttles to transit centers, an expanded vanpool program, increased ridesharing services, parking management, alternative work schedules (to shift report times out of the peak), compressed work weeks (a full week in less than the traditional five days) and teleworking (working from home or a satellite office).

Meeting our goal will not be easy. If everyone does his or her part an average of three days each pay period, the Department will reach compliance. For example, if an employee works a compressed work schedule and carpools one day a week, or just carpools two days a week, he or she would be helping the Department to achieve our goal.

If you have any suggestions, or would like to help in any way, please call Tim McGough at (609) 530-2347, or write to him at NJDOT, Office of the Assistant Commissioner for Finance & Administration, CN 600, Trenton, NJ 08625.

Region 4 tests hurricane evacuation route for Cape May

by Lance Weight
Statewide Planning

The State Police and NJDOT tested a hurricane evacuation route for Cape May during a mock emergency exercise on August 4.

If a major storm strikes New Jersey's southernmost tip, sections of Routes 47 and 347 in Cape May and Cumberland counties will be converted into one-way arteries northbound. The plan, which cuts up to half of the estimated 34 hours it would take to evacuate Cape May County otherwise, is supported by 30 State Troopers, 30 NJDOT maintenance people and NJ TRANSIT buses to assist stranded motorists.

The evacuation plan follows a report by Paul Baker of Traffic Operations - South and includes recommendations in the 1992 NJ Hurricane Evacuation Study issued by the State Police, the National Weather Service and US Army Corps of Engineers.

Colonel Carl Williams, State Police Superintendent, credited Rick Sentak, Region 4 Maintenance Area Supervisor,the Region's maintenance crews and other NJDOT staff for a good job.

Participating in the exercise were Area Supervisor Tom Jennings and Crew **411:** Larry Bose, Dave Cerone, Leon Fil, Bob Thomes, Joe Bove, Robert Hendley; **Crew 419:** Bob Boesz, Bob Chiari, Layton Hemsley, Wayne Morgan, James Patillo, Levern Peterson, Jim Raines, Robert Westcott, Warren Cook; **Crew 426:** Ken Muff, Mile Carlino, Mary Lou Bennett, James Capece, Greg Novakowski, Frank Page, Lou Slagle, Tom Wood, III, Joe Maimone; **Crew 428:** Tom Wood, Jr., Lov Stavoli, Dan Collins, Tony Crescenzo, James Iapalucci, Andrew Lipesky, Wayne Mathis, Dave Robinson, Frank Sudan, Bob Taylor, Tom Wise; **Crew 445:** John Asro, Rich Baker, Bud Callahan, Garry Hague, Carmen Pallante, Rich Plum, Dave Pusey, Darrell Hannah; **Region 4 Maintenance:** Richard Balgowan, Manager, Region 4 Headquarters, William Dickinson, Executive Director, and Jeff Callahan.

Others providing support were: Barry Hancock, **Graphics and Cartography;** Mike Smetanka, **Authority Coordination and Local Planning;** James Teiss, Supervisor and Ed Ronco, **Radio Shop**; Don Hendrickson, Supervisor and Reid Bryant, Mike DeBonis, Phil Foy, John Howell and Robert Parsons, **Sign Shop;** Wayne Pelich and Tim Szwedo, **Traffic Engineering;** Kurt Aufschneider, Manager,**Traffic Operations - South.**

The interdepartmental and interagency coodination of this effort was directed by Edward Klarman, the NJDOT Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and managed by Lance Weight, an alternate NJDOT EMC.

West Deptford yard gets new facility

Region 4 managers and the crew from the West Deptford yard broke ground for a new maintenance facility that will replace antiquated buildings at the same location: (top row) Richard Balgowan, William Dickenson, Thomas Jennings, Frank Pooley, and Pete Welsh; (bottom row) Frank Merchant, Mary Boettcher, William Damask, Stanley Rzepski, Frank Exler and Thomas Brown.

Department evaluates access for disabled citizens

The crowning of Heather Whitestone as the 1994 Miss America helped bring the issue of Americans with disabilities to a wide public. Meanwhile, passage of the federal Americans with Disablities Act (ADA) four years ago is bringing about huge changes in how this country addresses the issue of access for the disabled.

For NJDOT work, this probably means providing more curb-cuts for wheelchair access, special phone equipment for the hearing-impaired, access to emergency phones on highways and accommodations for the disabled at NJDOT facilities and meetings, according to the results of a recent self-evaluation.

Raymond J. Colanduoni, Director of Facilities Planning, says that the ADA requires all public entities to evaluate their services, policies and practices and make appropriate modifications. He supervised the Department's ADA self-evaluation, the results of which are being finalized for the Commissioner's approval.

Working with state ADA Administrator Dave Millstein to ensure all aspects of NJDOT's services and activities were covered, Colanduoni said that Department managers assessed 40 items.

"As a Department, there are many things we can offer to citizens and our employees," Colanduoni said. "Our people don't know about these services and the self-evaluation will help get the word out."

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guarantees individuals with disabilities access to employment, public accommodations, transportation, public services and telecommunications.

Blue Ribbons

John Howell—

Your actions at the time of the fatal accident on Route 78 in January 1993 were truly heroic. Your good judgment in immediately notifying emergency teams and the Department, and your compassionate actions regarding the shocked and confused men of the crew are remembered with pride and gratitude by the family of Calvin Leach and by your fellow employees.

—Commissioner Frank J. Wilson

David Johnson, Brian Britton and Desmond Norman—

Your quick actions in response to an accident which occurred on August 31, 1993 are to be commended. Your quick thinking and brave actions not only helped save the life of the accident victim, but also allowed easier access for police and first aid members. In addition, while not losing sight of the victim's safety, you and your co-workers were able to maintain a smooth flow of traffic.

—Commissioner Frank J. Wilson

Mark Bayous—

While inspecting a new traffic signal installation on the new Route 129, you witnessed an attack of a citizen involving a stabbing. Your quick actions in proceeding after the assailant were critical in his apprehension.

—Commissioner Frank J. Wilson

Supervisor,
Emergency Service Patrol—

I want to take a moment to thank Willie Sims for assisting us on the night of July 28. He was extremely courteous and accommodating. I personally think this is a great service to the commuters.

—Renee Pfeifer, Landing.

Albert B. Ari—

I am writing in thanks for the outstanding job done by your Crew 265 - Lodi Construction. As per this crew, supervised by Joseph Biggs, a sink-hole type situation had occurred on my property at 336 Route 46 East in Fairfield, caused by a broken storm water concrete pipe.

I cannot say enough about the crew that was sent to this location and the friendly, expedient manner in which the repairs were affected.

A special thanks to those involved who were: Joseph Biggs, Assistant Crew Supervisor; George McGee; Robert Grisant; Anthony Sebeck and William Zapata. Thanks guys, you're welcome here anytime.

—David N. Leslie,
General Manager,
Eastern Region,
Noritsu America Corporation

New Jersey
Department of Transportation
1035 Parkway Avenue, CN 600
Trenton, NJ 08625-0600

Printed on recycled paper

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Trenton, NJ
Permit No. 21